



**KING COUNTY ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2005**

Members Present: Linda Brown, Roger Goodman, Larry Hill, Kim Murillo, Yasmin Smith

Members Absent: Nancy Code (excused), Joan Clement (excused), Mary Alice Knotts (excused)

Staff Present: Sherry Hamilton, Meg Lineweaver, Jackie MacLean, Rhoda Naguit, Winnie Ng, Jaci Oseguera, Linda Palmer, Jim Vollendroff

Guests Present: Jim Benbow, VA icMedcial Center; Tim Burdick, Ryther Child Center; Michelle Di Miscio (nominee); Harvey Funai, Bob Leonard, DASA Region 4; Ramona Graham, Center for Human Services; Jenna Henderson (nominee); Anita Hidalgo, WAPIFASA; Arden James, Seattle Mental Health; Tim King, (nominee); Sue Nixon, Alcohol/Drug Helpline; Cathy Speelmon, Seattle Counseling Service; Richard Sirota, Rahniejo Stark, Fairfax Hospital; Tammy Wright, Auburn Youth Resources; Joan Zintak, Community Psychiatric Clinic

Board Chair Linda Brown convened the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board meeting at 12:10 p.m. The meeting was held at Mount Olympus Room of DASA Region IV offices, located at 400 Mercer Street, 6th floor, Seattle.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chair Brown formally recognized and introduced some special guests in the meeting – Jackie MacLean, DCHS Director, Sherry Hamilton, DCHS Communication Director, and Donald Lachman, from the consulting firm Lachman and Associates. She then asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

II. MINUTES

The approval of the minutes was put on hold due to lack of quorum.

III. PRESENTATION – ALCOHOL EXCISE TAX

Board Chair Brown briefly introduced Donald Lachman before his presentation on alcohol excise tax initiative. She stated that the Board has been supportive of an increase in the beer excise tax initiative to fund for treatment for a long time.

At the outset, Donald Lachman stated that the chemical dependency treatment system is underfunded across the State. He then briefly reviewed the history of the alcohol excise tax initiative. Two years ago he was asked by King County Executive Ron Sims to look at the alcohol excise tax and how it might be used to increase

chemical dependency treatment. Since then he has been closely working with interested groups towards legislation that would increase the excise tax on beer and dedicate the funding to treatment. Alcohol is the most widely used drug and beer makes up approximately 80% of alcohol consumption.

Donald also shared his experience working on Alcohol Impact Area initiative with Pierce County and Seattle.

He emphasized the need to educate and increase awareness among people and the legislators about the impact of drinking and the problems of chronic public inebriates as key to its efforts to increase the excise tax to fund treatment. He also emphasized the importance of forming broad community group including partnership with fire departments, law enforcement officers, treatment providers, and business groups to educate the public and find solution to the problems of chronic public inebriate. He invited the Board to partner with these groups. He asked for two volunteers from the Board to work with Pierce and Thurston counties on the Alcohol Excise Tax Initiative. The group will determine which route to take – whether as an initiative or a legislative issue. As these efforts proceed it will be very important to ensure that funding from this initiative be used for treatment services rather than placed in general fund.

He stated that King County Council member Kathy Lambert has been a great supporter of the alcohol excise tax initiative. She had planned to attend Board meeting but had to be in Olympia for a meeting.

V. DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES 2005

Jackie MacLean, Director of the King County Department of Community and Human Services, acknowledged the Board's efforts and success in recruiting a diverse board based on age, ethnicity, knowledge and experience and the Board commitment to providing liaisons to agency providers that increases the Board's visibility in the community.

She also identified the other citizen boards in the department and handed out brochures about the seven citizen boards. She asked Board members to let others know about opportunities for membership on any of the boards.

Ms. MacLean gave an overview of the services under the Department of Community and Human Services and briefly described the four service divisions. The Director's office oversees programs and services.

She also gave an overview of the Department budget. For 2005, the total budget of the department is \$235 million that comes from multiple sources. The Department has over 400 staff and is the second largest human service system in state after

DSHS. King County devotes over \$27 million of its resources to support human services through the department. 80% of the resources are used to contract with community agencies that provide both outpatient and inpatient substance abuse services. 13% of the resources are used for direct services such as the crisis and commitment services, King County Assessment Center, and the Sobering Center's Emergency Services Patrol. Only 7% goes to administrative costs.

Ms. MacLean discussed the Department service priorities for 2005: homelessness, employment, and criminal justice system services. Under her leadership, she encourages all divisions in the department to work collaboratively to address these issues and avoid duplication in services. Because of this emphasis, there has been a significant improvement in the coordination and collaboration among programs and services in the Department

King County has dedicated over \$31 million to homeless programs for 2005. There are over 8,000 homeless people in King County. A ten-year Plan to end homelessness in King County is now being implemented by the department. Two new staff has been hired to set up the administrative structure, collect data and facilitate the implementation of this plan. To address the problem of homelessness, we need aggressive strategies to reach individuals and families before they lose their home. Other strategies include increased availability of affordable housing and supportive services and build the community and political will. Recently the Department has been managing tent cities in the County.

The underlying reasons why people are homeless include lack of education and basic skills. We need to improve linkages to employment services for our target populations. The department has an excellent education and job training course in WorkSource Renton.

The department has received funding for criminal justice programs that provide alternative to incarceration. New resources amounting to \$3 million have been dedicated to creating innovative programs, new staff liaison roles, cross system collaborations, dedicated housing, and access to treatment.

The Task Force on Regional Human Services convened by Executive Ron Sims last year examined the current system and submitted recommendations on how to improve and stabilize the regional human service system for the future. The Task Force found out that the region is unable to meet the current basic human service needs of County residents, that the current system lacks strategic and coordinated service planning on regional and local levels and highlighted the need to develop a regional structure and funding sources. One approach to these problems/needs that is being considered is an initiative on the 2006 ballot to address the regional structure and funding.

VI. PROVIDER CONCERNS

This discussion focused on provider concerns about implementation of the GAIN. Board Chair Brown briefly summarized concerns as Tim Burdick identified them in a letter to Jim Vollendroff that was shared with the Board. The major concerns are (1) the potential revenue loss, (2) training issues including the time required for both initial and ongoing training, (3) the cost of necessary technology, and (4) the implementation time line. Jim Vollendroff has sent a letter of response to address these concerns and held a number of meetings with providers to address their concerns. GAIN training was conducted as scheduled which was attended by agency providers. Board Chair Brown opened the floor to the providers to discuss their concerns about GAIN implementation.

Tim Burdick led the provider group in the discussion. Their ongoing concerns include no fixed fiscal backing, significant loss of revenue, highly technical and demand for ongoing training. They asked that implementation date be postponed until fiscal backing is addressed. The group expressed support for the implementation of GAIN but asked that their concerns be addressed before implementation.

Tammy Wright talked about the enormous amount of time she put in to training and the cost incurred in providing training to other agencies. Anita Hidalgo supported Tim's expression of concern and talked about the impact of implementation of smaller agencies that are most affected due to lack of manpower and resources.

Jim Vollendroff stated that with system change there are always obstacles. He is currently working with other counties on a study of vendor rates and reimbursement for assessments. Hopefully this will help address the revenue concerns. He is always working with community colleges regarding ongoing training. The Division will also consider a realistic deadline for GAIN implementation. Jim recommended developing other training options including incorporating GAIN training in programs that they offer. As this is implemented, it should decrease some of the training pressure agencies are experiencing. The Board will assign a Board Liaison to attend the regular GAIN Implementation meeting. The Board will continue to work closely with Jim and the providers in the implementation process.

VII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Joint Board Meeting

Board Chair Brown encouraged the board members to attend the Joint Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2005 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Conference Room 6A of the Exchange Building, 821 2nd Avenue, Seattle. King County Mental Health Advisory Board is hosting the joint meeting this year. Bill Hobson,

Executive Director of Downtown Emergency Services Center, will speak to the joint Boards on homelessness in King County and some of the programs and services available for the homeless. Bill and DESC are recognized as national leaders in services for homeless individuals with CD and MH problems.

B. Board Planning Retreat

The Board meets in May typically a 3-4 hour late afternoon/evening planning retreat. Rhoda Naguit will start polling members for a possible meeting date in May for this planning retreat via email. Board Chair Brown will work an agenda through email.

C. Recovery Garden Update

Good news! The proposed recovery garden has been approved as a part of the Delridge Park renewal project. The challenging aspect of this project is that we need to raise the total amount of \$2,500 for the space and installation for a labyrinth. The funds are needed by the end of June with a September deadline for funding.

Suzanne Wietting who has spearheaded the project is willing to stay involved but needs help from the board. A workgroup will be formed to develop and implement the fundraising effort. The following people volunteered to be part of this workgroup: Kim Murillo, Michelle DiMiscio and Tim King.

Some fundraising schemes were discussed which include selling bricks that can be engraved with the names of donors or in memory of a deceased loved one.

D. Workshops/Conferences

Linda reminded the Board about the workshop/conference entitled "Beyond the Make of Denial: Healthy Family and Communities" on April 2nd at Seattle Central Community College. The cost is either \$25 or \$50 depending on the registration category. The Diversity Treatment Providers Alliance is sponsoring this workshop.

Another program on services for Queer Youth is also scheduled for April 2nd. Jim Vollendroff will email information about Queer Training to the board.

The "Saying Out Loud" Conference sponsored by DASA will be held on May 20, 2005 at Shoreline Conference Center. This is a whole day conference with an enrollment cap of 250. Any Board members interested in attending should register soon through DASA.

E. Access to Recovery Advisory Committee

The Board has been invited to have a representative on a newly established Advisory Committee for Access to Recovery (ATR) project that will provide guidance in the planning and operation of the project. The Board representative for this committee will have to have been officially appointed which unfortunately rules out members who are waiting for Council confirmation. Kim Murillo volunteered to represent the Board and will attend the first meeting of Monday, April 4th from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Exchange Building Conference Room 6A

F. Board Appointment

Roger Goodman made a motion which was seconded by Larry Hill to recommend the appointment of Tim King with the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board. The motion was passed unanimously.

G. Board Orientation Handbook

Board members were asked to get their orientation handbook from Rhoda Naguit after the meeting.

H. Board Liaison Report

Due to time constraint, Board Chair Brown asked the board liaison to email their liaison report.

VIII. DRUG ALCOHOL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

April 24, 2005 is the kick off for Spotlight on Recovery, an advocate group for chemical dependency, a similar version of NAMI, a mental health advocacy group.

There are a number of grant opportunities to provide services for homelessness, chemical dependency, criminal justice and Native American population.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Linda Brown
Board Chair